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IT HAPPENED IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

URI

For the first time in the history of the Uri Parliament, a Social Democrat became its President when Franz Jaeger was elected early in June. At the first session, the annual accounts for 1964 were accepted; they ended with a loss of Fr.334,757.—.

In Uri, too, the construction of national roads has begun, and the largest freighter, the "St. Gotthard" started work on the Lake of Lucerne. She was launched at Flüelen in June, is fitted with radar and capable of doing 21 km. per hour, which makes her the fastest freighter in Switzerland.

At the end of June, the Oberalpsee began to drain, and it was found that the barrage dam was defective. The Reuss and the Schaechen were near flooding their banks in August, due to uninterrupted rainfall in the Canton of Uri.

In early spring, Andermatt was the venue of the International Military Ski Competitions. At the same time, the delegates of the fishing community of Central Switzerland met in Altdorf and passed a resolution condemning the construction of a barrage wall across the Reuss above Amsteg, which would be fatal for trout. Early in July, the "Tellspiele" started in Altdorf. The opening ceremony was combined with the unveiling of the EXPO monument "Rütlichwur" by Werner Witschi, which had been presented to Uri by Lausanne, and which now stands on the landing square at Flüelen. Also in July, the Uri Cantonal Bank celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

Uri has been exemplary in creating a central office for industrial home work, and there are several hundred workers, men and women, successfully employed in their own homes.

SCHWYZ

The ordinary annual accounts of the Canton of Schwyz ended with a surplus of over Fr.34,000.—, revenue standing at nearly 34½ million francs. The extraordinary accounts dealing with school buildings, road construction and water protection, showed a deficit of Fr.222,000.—, with the expenditure reaching nearly 8 million francs.

The new President of the Cantonal Parliament is the Liberal Dr. Hans Gambaro (Kuessnacht/Rigi). The new President of the Cantonal Tribunal is Lic. iur. Anton Kalchofner in succession to Councillor of States Dr. Dominik auf der Maur who had retired.

The building ceiling for Schwyz has been fixed by the Federal Department for Economic Affairs at 113.6 million francs for 1965. This ceiling is higher by 24.9% or 22.6 mio than that for 1964. Illgau has now a new school for its 110 pupils. Cost: 1.4 million francs. In March, Kuessnacht voters, with a high participation of 70.4% of the electorate, granted the credit for a new building in place of the old "Pfrundhaus". It is to house the police, contains two flats and civil defence quarters. The citizens also voted a contribution towards the extension of the "Gesslerburg" rifle range.

In 1935, Alemanic graves were discovered in Schwyz, and early this year, further discoveries were made, tombs dating back to 1121, when the St. Martins-Pfarrkirche was renovated. The old Reding Chapel at Arth, erected 1469 on the site where Ital Reding was killed by a foreigner three years earlier, is to be renovated.

A 15-million-franc regional project has been planned in Schwyz for a communal waste water plant. For the whole of 1965, the catching of frogs has been prohibited in the Canton.

Early in spring, a huge boulder which had been threatening the traffic near Seewen, was blown up, and nearly 12,000 cubic metres of rock were blasted away. It took three weeks to clear the road. For the next four years, road construction in Schwyz will cost 20 million francs. The Brunnen by-pass was opened before Whitsun.

In July, there was a large fire at Merlischachen when a building was completely gutted, and large quantities of floor polish and other chemicals were destroyed.

Early this year, the centenary of the death of Theodosius Florentini was commemorated in Schwyz where he had founded the Collegium Maria-Hilf. In May, the Cantonal Bank could look back on 75 years of activities, and in June, the famous "Grosse Welttheater" began its performances at Einsiedeln with a cast of over 500 amateur actors. In May, a balloon flight for charitable purposes took place at Siebnen, and in July, 3,000 spectators assembled at Wangen to watch an airshow. On the last week-end in August, Pfaeffikon celebrated its millennium.

OBWALDEN

The annual accounts for 1964 were nearly balanced at 17.6 million francs. The new President of the Obwalden Parliament is Anton Ettlín, Kerns. The new Juvenile Court took up its duties at the end of April under the presidency of Carl Roethlin.

1964 was a good year for Obwalden's economy. There are now over 50 factories employing nearly 14,000 workers. Foreign employees numbered 1,928 in the summer of 1963, but only 1,532 at the same time last year. The Sarnen electorate for the first time in its history, had to decide on a credit of over a million francs, when it agreed to a new school in the "Schwendi", the fourth school within 12 years.

On 4th April Sachseln was the place of a Memorial Service for the late leader of Moral Rearmament, Peter Howard. The Swiss Fire Brigade Federation met at Engelberg in June, and the Swiss Public Relations Society at Lungern in July. Melchsee-Frutt celebrated its centenary as a holiday resort.

Obwalden experienced further bad earth tremors at the end of August, though they were nothing like the serious earthquakes which caused damage of 5 million francs in the spring of 1964.

NIDWALDEN

The cantonal accounts for 1964 show a small deficit, with revenue standing at Fr.14,678,800.—. The extraordinary accounts finished with a loss of nearly 1½ million francs (expenditure amounting to over 14 mio.), mainly due to road construction, subsidising the Lucerne-Stans-Engelberg railway and the new hospital.

The Nidwalden farmers sent an open letter to the Federal Council, expressing concern at the future of agriculture. In May, the "Pilatus" aircraft factory in Stans celebrated its Silver Jubilee, and in June, the new aerial cableway was opened between Dallewil and Wirzweli.

In February, earth tremors were experienced in Nidwalden.

LUCERNE

Revenue in the Canton of Lucerne amounted to 159.7 million francs in 1964, and expenditure was only slightly less. A tax amnesty has been declared up to the end of 1966. Lucerne civil servants and teachers have been granted increases, and improved family allowances will cost the Canton well over 2 mio. francs more per annum.

The Cantonal Government asked Parliament for a grant to purchase the Castle of Wyher near Ettiswil, which was damaged by fire in 1963. The Cantonal Teachers' Training College at Hitzkirch will need 13 million francs for renovation and extension. The first building of the Cantonal School was opened in May. The former Convent of St. Urban in Lucerne is to be renovated.

The bay at Horw has been declared a protected zone. There has been a great deal of discussion regarding a Lucerne by-pass for the new express road. The Federal Council have rejected the plan.

Lucerne has now over 75,000 inhabitants. Thanks to a legacy by a Dutch woman, 3½ million francs have been put at the disposal of the old people's settlement. Large sums are required to finish the Cantonal School at Tribtschen and for the first aid post Roennimoos. The St. Karli Bridge is to be repaired — as decided by the municipal electorate (14% participation). The same Dutch woman as mentioned above, has left 3½ mio. for the rebuilding of the Municipal Theatre. 4.3 million francs are needed for 14 trolley-buses and the change from bus to trolley-bus lines. The Pilatusplatz is to be newly laid out, and a new quayside promenade near the Seeburg is to be called "Churchill Quay". The first Swiss jet plane N-20 has been taken to the Swiss Museum of Transport. In April, the Winkelried Foundation celebrated its centenary, in May, the 6th International Fruit Juice Conference and in June, the International Colour Congress were held in Lucerne. In the same month, the famous "Seenachtfest" took place. In March, several thousand francs worth of stamps were stolen in Lucerne. A month later, an international criminal (Spanish) was arrested. In July, furs worth Fr.80,000.— were stolen, and at the end of August, Fr.93,000.— were taken away in a wage robbery.

The citizens of Emmen, through their Inhabitants' Council, voted large sums for a new primary school and for the completion of the sportsgrounds Gersag. The small Commune of Fluehli voted 2 million francs for a waste water plant and over 2¼ mio. for road construction. Kriens granted funds for the extension of the school Gabeldingen, and Oberkirch has decided on a new village centre. On 12th July, the battle of Sempach was commemorated, and on 1st August, over 6,000 Lucerne farmers organised a rally on the battlefield. The Council Hall at Sursee dating to 1546 is to be renovated. In June, a large swimming pool was opened at Nebikon; it is to serve seven Communes.

ZUG

The annual accounts of the Canton of Zug showed a small surplus, revenue amounting to nearly 34 million francs. On the other hand, the extraordinary accounts (road construction, etc.) finished with a loss of well over 2½ mio. (expenditure Fr. 11,748,800.—).

The town of Zug expects to spend over 154 million francs on construction work during the next 20 years. The "Bürgerspital" will be enlarged — the final project will cost 16 mio. Nearly as much will be spent on a new school (Loreto), and the citizens have agreed to a grant of 6.7 mio.

for an extension of the sportsgrounds Hertiallmen. Federal Councillor von Moos attended the "Centralfest" of the Swiss Students' Federation at the end of August. This rally was the reason why the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad could not be held in Zug as originally planned.

Baar is another Commune which has voted a considerable sum of money (3.3 mio.) for a school. Steinhäusen's citizens have decided not to levy the "Bürgersteuer" in the future, as the "Bürgerheim" has been let, and the remaining assistance to the poor can be met out of the rent and other income.

Early in August, a bad explosion took place at a car workshop at Unteraegeri; several people were injured. Unteraegeri was also one of several Communes where, a few years ago, arson was committed on a large scale. Last spring, the two dangerous fellows responsible for it were arrested.

GLARUS

At the end of May, the Glarus "Landrat" was re-elected. As before, the Liberals (Allgemeine Bürgerliche Volkspartei) are the strongest Party, having 27 out of the 81 seats, followed by the Democrats with 26. The new President is the Social Democrat Fritz Boeniger. Three million francs will be needed for road construction this year.

The traditional Naefelser Fahrt took place early in April in excellent weather. In May, the industrial firm of Therma A.G. Schwanden opened their new buildings, and a few days later, the "Vereinigte Webereien Sernftal — Weberei Azmoos" celebrated their centenary. The Glarus Chamber of Commerce could also look back on 100 years of activities. On 11th August, the ten-storey hospital was officially opened; it has room for 159 patients.

(News by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

THE TRANSPARENT PAINTINGS AT THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT, LUCERNE

The Institute of Transport, Lucerne, presents the relationships between people and mountains in the beginning of Switzerland's touristic fame in the form of a jubilee exhibition. Open to the public until 3rd October, 1965, the special exhibition, arranged by the Swiss National Tourist Office, is presented in a brightly coloured tent and features twenty of the most beautiful transparent paintings of the Bernese minor master Franz Niklaus König (1756-1832). Presented with an accompaniment of old-time-folk music, the exhibition is calculated to take present-day visitors of our age of haste and rapid technological change back to the pristine mountain landscapes of earlier centuries. These large-size transparent water-colours were exhibited in darkened rooms by the painter himself during his travels through Germany and France, and he is thus regarded as one of the pioneers of Switzerland's tourist promotion efforts. Precisely 150 years have passed since he opened his first exhibition of transparent paintings in Bern. An introduction to the exhibition is provided by forty glass display cases containing articles that were in everyday use in Switzerland in centuries past, as well as equipment used by hikers and climbers in the Alps. The exhibition also includes selected examples of tourist posters.

[S.N.T.O.]